



Episode 53:
Smoke Signal





I
KNOW
THAT
!!

ALSO,
EREN'S
ASS IS
HANGING
OUT.

HE'S
NOT EVEN
TEN METERS
TALL, AND
HE'S MISSING
SOME
FLESH.

DON'T
YOU THINK
HE LOOKS
DIFFERENT
THIS
TIME?



IF YOU
DON'T,
WE'RE
DIGGING
YOU
OUT OF
THERE!

IF SO,
GIVE ME
SOME
SORT
OF
SIGNAL
!!

EREN!! DO
YOU THINK
YOU CAN
STILL MOVE
YOUR
TITAN?!

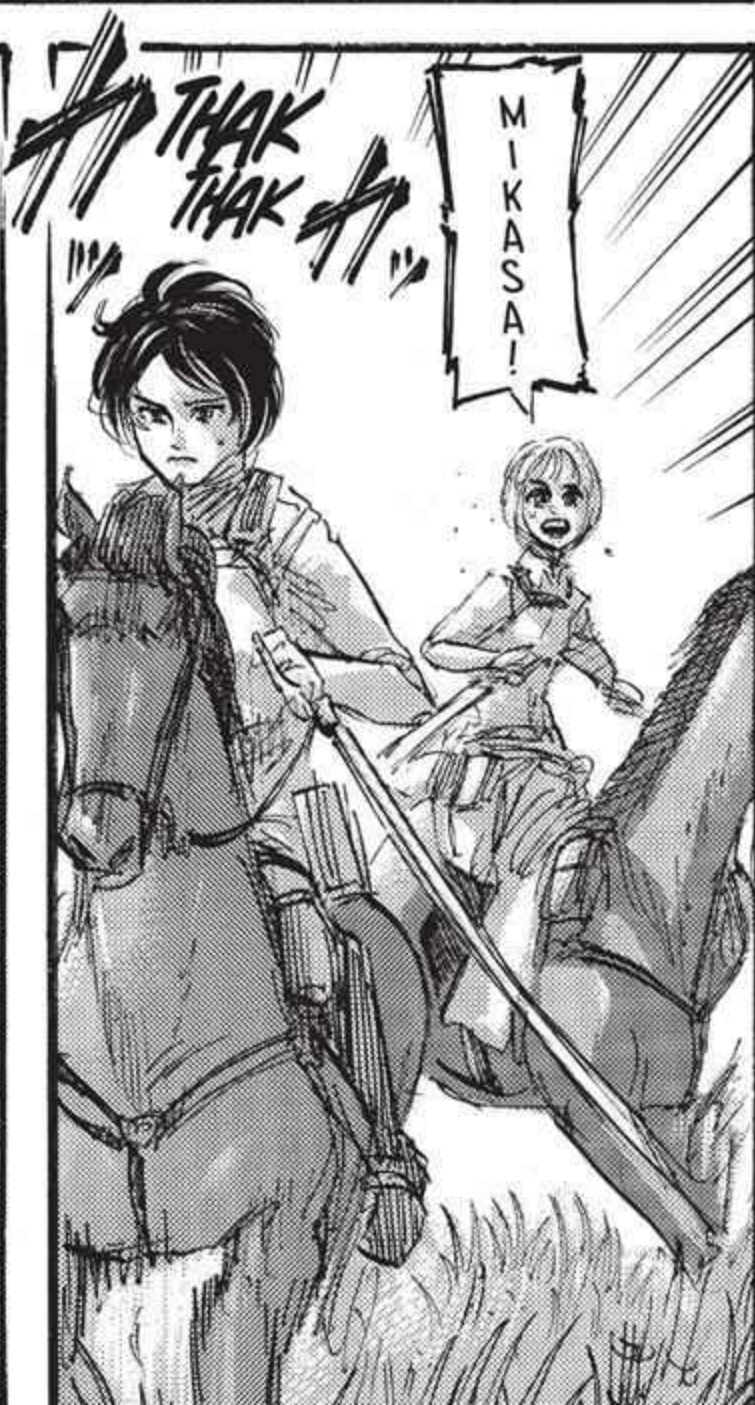


NO,
HE'S
NOT
RE-
SPOND-
ING.
WE'RE
DONE!

SHOULD
WE
PUNISH
HER?

HEY, THAT
GLOOMY
LITTLE
BRAT IS
IGNORING
ORDERS
AGAIN.

THAP



THAK
THAK

MIKASA!









GGGTT



THAT TELLTALE
SMOKE GOES UP
WHENEVER HE
TURNS INTO A
TITAN. EVEN
DEEP IN THE
MOUNTAINS...

WE
REALLY
CAN'T DO
THIS
QUIETLY,
CAN WE...?



...WE NEED
TO ASSUME
THAT THEY'RE
WATCHING US
FROM
SOMEWHERE...



I
SLEPT
FOR A
WHOLE
DAY...?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...



ANYWAY,
DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE
EXPERIMENT
WE RAN?

HUH?

MIKASA
PROBABLY
WON'T
SLICE ME
TO
SHREDS
NOW.

H M?

I'M
GLAD
YOU'RE
BACK TO
NORMAL.





YOU
TRANSFORMED
INTO A TITAN IN
ORDER TO HARDEN
YOUR BODY AND
FILL A GIANT CAVE
THAT STOOD IN
FOR WALL
MARIA.

THIS IS
HOW THE
EXPERI-
MENT
WENT.

BUT SINCE
NOTHING
HAPPENED, WE
PROCEEDED WITH
OUR BACKUP
PLAN AND RAN
ENDURANCE AND
INTELLIGENCE
TESTS.

THE
SAME SIZE
AS THE
ONES
YOU'VE
MADE
APPEAR IN
THE PAST.

THE
FIRST
TITAN
WAS A
15-ME-
TER
CLASS
...

W
E
L
L
...

BUT
NOTHING
ABOUT
THE
RESULTS
...

I
REMEM-
BER HOW
THE
PLAN
WENT...

IT SEEMS YOUR MOUTH IS NOT STRUCTURED FOR SPEECH.

WE TRIED TO HAVE YOU SPEAK, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

YOU SEEMED FULLY CONSCIOUS, AND FOLLOWED ANY ORDERS, NO MATTER WHO GAVE THEM TO YOU.

WE GAVE YOU SIMPLE ORDERS AT FIRST, LIKE TO RAISE ONE FOOT OR WAVE YOUR ARMS.

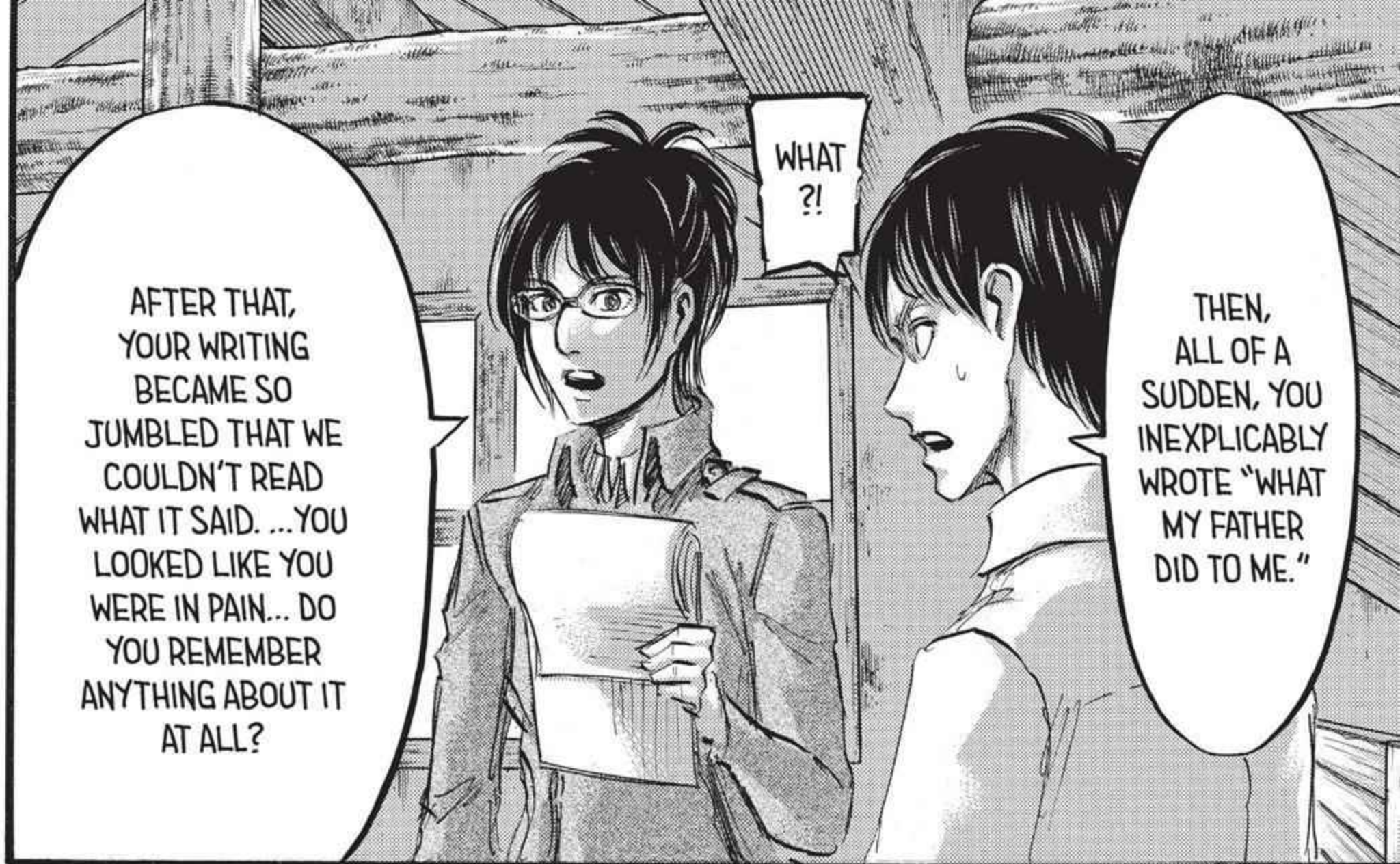
YOU WERE ABLE TO DO FAIRLY DETAILED JOBS. YOU COULD PROBABLY BUILD A CASTLE AS A TITAN QUITE EASILY.

NEXT, WE HAD YOU PERFORM TASKS USING LOGS AND ROPE.

YOU HAD BEEN WRITING, "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HARDEN MYSELF."

IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE WRITING IN THE GROUND IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE TO US.

BUT AFTER AN HOUR OR SO PASSED, WE SAW A CHANGE.



AFTER THAT,
YOUR WRITING
BECAME SO
JUMBLED THAT WE
COULDN'T READ
WHAT IT SAID. ...YOU
LOOKED LIKE YOU
WERE IN PAIN... DO
YOU REMEMBER
ANYTHING ABOUT IT
AT ALL?

WHAT
?!

THEN,
ALL OF A
SUDDEN, YOU
INEXPLICABLY
WROTE "WHAT
MY FATHER
DID TO ME."



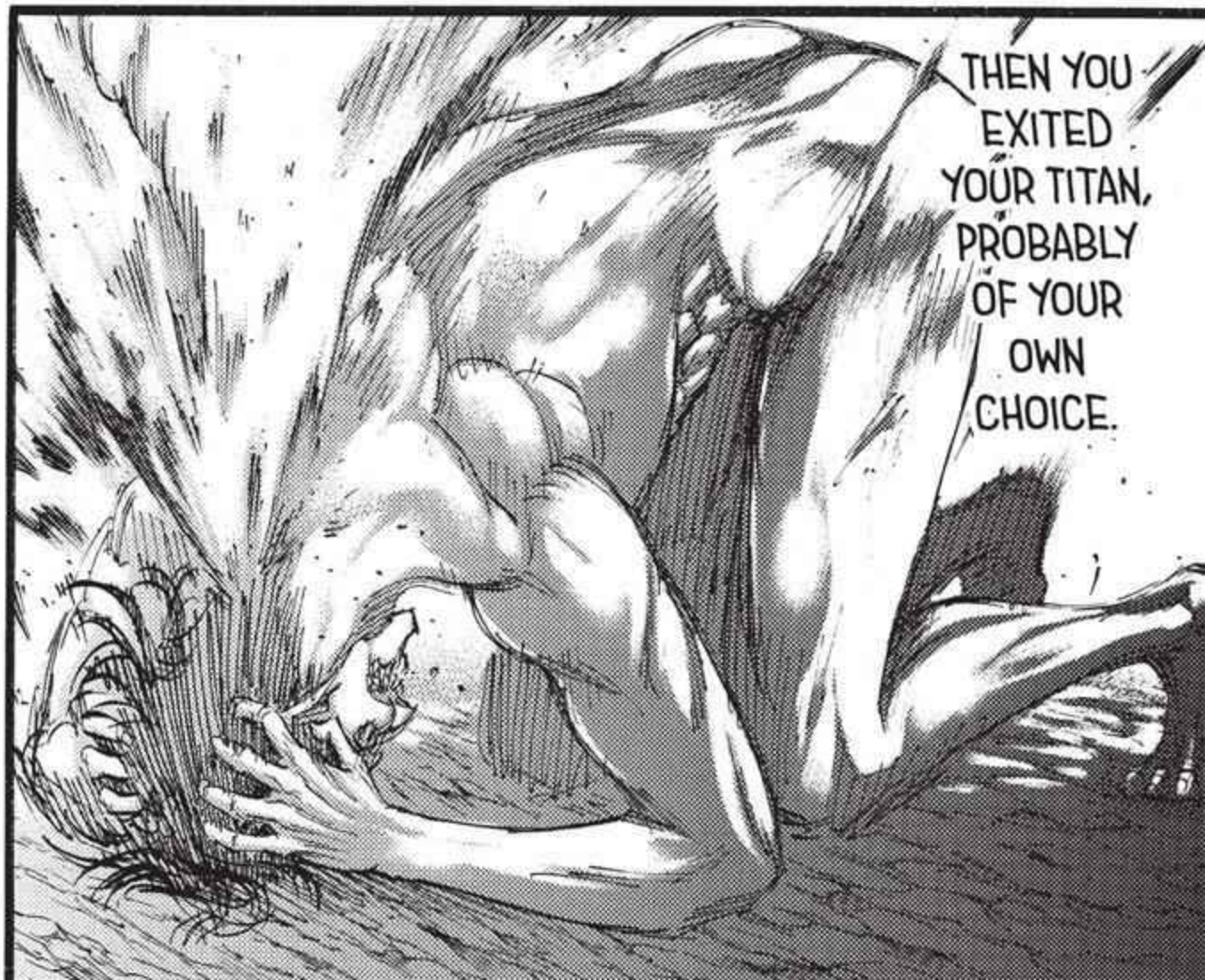
...AFTER
THAT, YOU
WRITHED
AROUND
FOR ABOUT
THIRTY
MINUTES...

I
DON'T
...

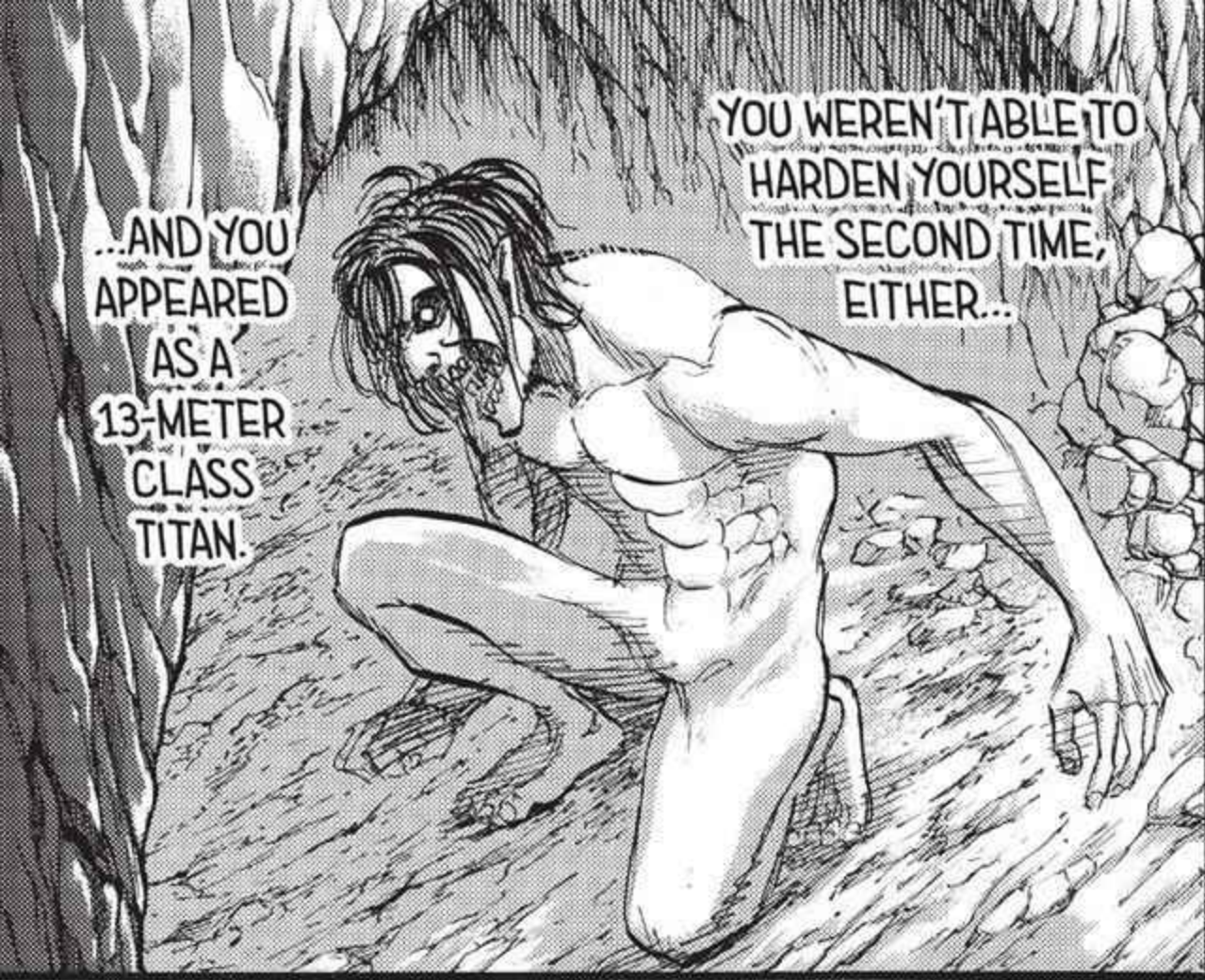


AND
THAT YOU
WERE ONLY
HALF-CON-
SCIOUS.

WE
COULD
TELL
THEN
THAT
YOUR
MEMORY
WAS
CLOUDY,



THEN YOU
EXITED
YOUR TITAN,
PROBABLY
OF YOUR
OWN
CHOICE.



...AND YOU
APPEARED
AS A
13-METER
CLASS
TITAN.

YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO
HARDEN YOURSELF
THE SECOND TIME,
EITHER...



AFTER YOU
RESTED
FOR HALF
AN HOUR,
YOU TRIED
TURNING
INTO A
TITAN ONCE
MORE.



NONE OF OUR
ORDERS
REACHED
YOU, AND
YOU SEEMED
TO BE
INCREDIBLY
HUNGRY. YOU
ATE THE
HOUSE YOU
BUILT
EARLIER.

WE TRIED TO
RUN THE
EARLIER
INTELLIGENCE
TESTS AGAIN,
BUT
COULDN'T.



YOU RESTED
FOR ANOTHER
THIRTY
MINUTES,
THEN TRIED
TO TURN INTO
A TITAN FOR A
THIRD TIME.



WE HAD TO
HELP YOU
GET OUT
OF YOUR
TITAN.

YOU RAN WILD
FOR A LITTLE
LONGER, THEN
SEEMED TO
RUN OUT OF
ENERGY, AS
YOU TURNED
BACK INTO A
HUMAN.



IT
WAS EVEN
MORE FUSED
WITH YOUR BODY,
AND TEARING
YOU OUT WAS
A LOT OF
WORK...



THAT TIME,
YOUR TITAN WAS
LESS THAN
TEN METERS TALL...
IT WAS SO
INCOMPLETE THAT
YOU COULDN'T
STAND ON YOUR
OWN.



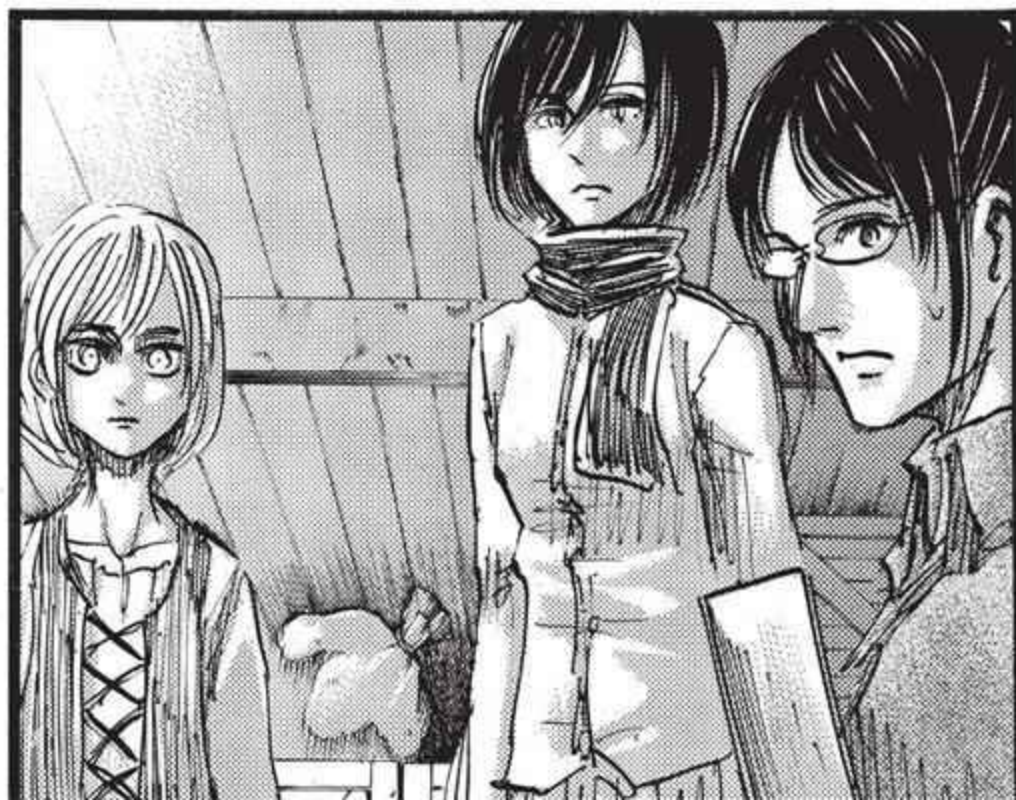
...TO
RETAKE
WALL
MARIA...



...THIS
MEANS WE
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
START
IMMEDI-
ATELY ON
THE
OPERATION
...



...SO
AT THE
VERY
LEAST...



I
COULDN'T
HARDEN MY
TITAN
BODY...



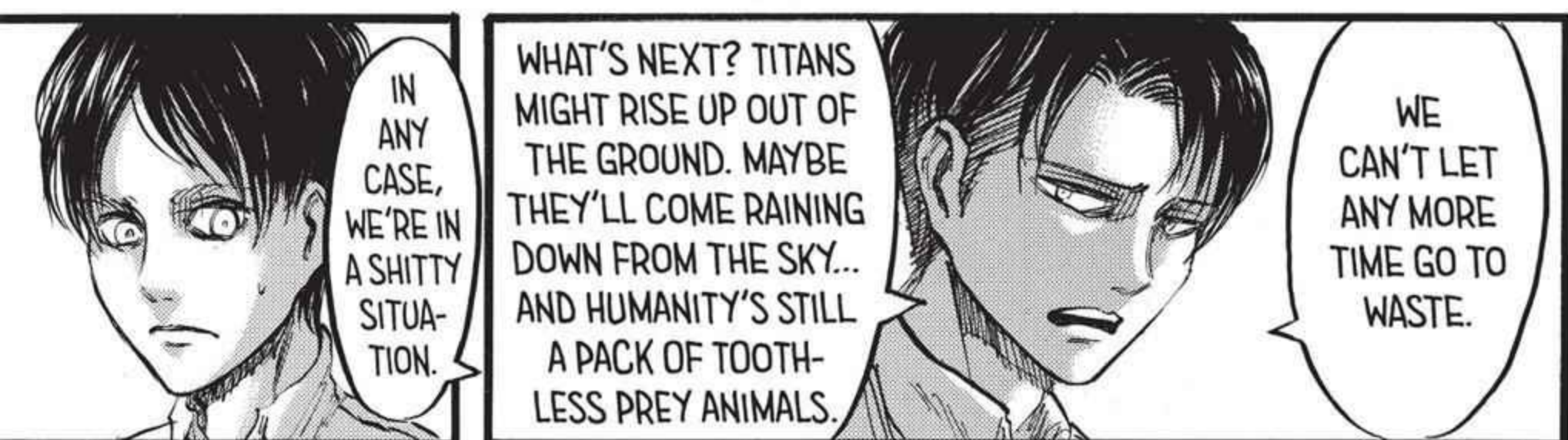
ALL
BE-
CAUSE
...



AND EVERYONE'S BEEN MISERABLE TODAY BECAUSE OF IT.

IT WAS A REAL DISAPPOINTMENT TO US.

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.



IN ANY CASE, WE'RE IN A SHITTY SITUATION.

WHAT'S NEXT? TITANS MIGHT RISE UP OUT OF THE GROUND. MAYBE THEY'LL COME RAINING DOWN FROM THE SKY... AND HUMANITY'S STILL A PACK OF TOOTHLESS PREY ANIMALS.

WE CAN'T LET ANY MORE TIME GO TO WASTE.



RIGHT NOW, HE CAN'T CLOSE THAT HOLE.

BUT SO WHAT? WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT HE **TRIED** HIS **BEST**?

I KNOW THAT.

...EREN DID EVERYTHING HE COULD.



GOING OVER OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND BITCHING ABOUT OUR SITUATION IS AN IMPORTANT RITUAL.

HOLD ON. I'M JUST BEING AN ASSHOLE. I'M NOT BLAMING HIM.

BUT... BLAMING EREN FOR THAT...



THAT'S
OUR
SITUA-
TION.

IT'S
BEEN THAT
WAY FOR OVER
A HUNDRED
YEARS. WE'VE
ALWAYS LIVED
IN SHIT.

TAKE A
WHIFF. INSIDE
THESE WALLS,
THE AIR'S
ALWAYS STUNK
LIKE TRASH.



I SAW
IT AS
NORMAL.

AFTER
ALL, I'VE
SUCKED IN THIS
STINK SINCE
THE DAY I WAS
BORN.



I DIDN'T
NOTICE IT
UNTIL JUST
A FEW
YEARS
AGO.




OUT
THERE, I
FINALLY
SAW WHAT
I'D BEEN
MISSING.

...BUT
IT'S GOT
SOMETHING
THE WALLS
DON'T.
FREEDOM.



YES,
LIFE
OUT
THERE
IS
HELL...

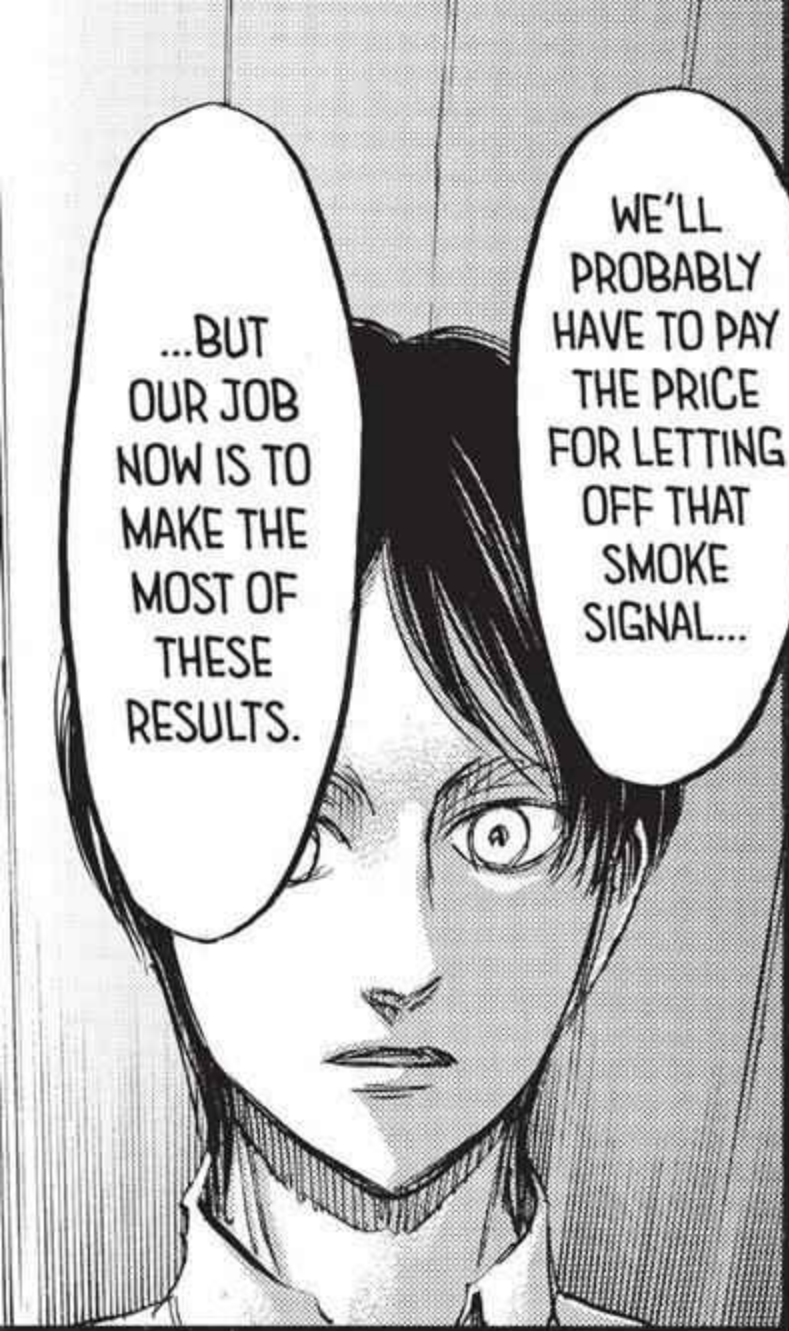
BUT
THE AIR I
BREATHED
OUTSIDE
THE WALLS
WAS DIFFER-
ENT.



...WE
LEARNED THAT
YOU CAN'T
HARDEN YOUR
TITAN BODY. AND
THAT'S A
SUCCESS.



...
...IN
OTHER
WORDS,
WHAT LEVI'S
TRYING TO
SAY IS...



...BUT
OUR JOB
NOW IS TO
MAKE THE
MOST OF
THESE
RESULTS.

WE'LL
PROBABLY
HAVE TO PAY
THE PRICE
FOR LETTING
OFF THAT
SMOKE
SIGNAL...



EVERY-
THING THAT
HAPPENED
DURING THIS
EXPERIMENT
GAVE US
USEFUL
INFORMA-
TION.

THAT'S
NOT ALL,
EITHER!

WE ALSO
LEARNED HOW
LONG YOU CAN
STAY A TITAN
AFTER MULTIPLE
TRANSFORMA-
TIONS, AND WE
GOT A ROUGH
IDEA OF YOUR
VERSATILITY
AND
LIMITATIONS.

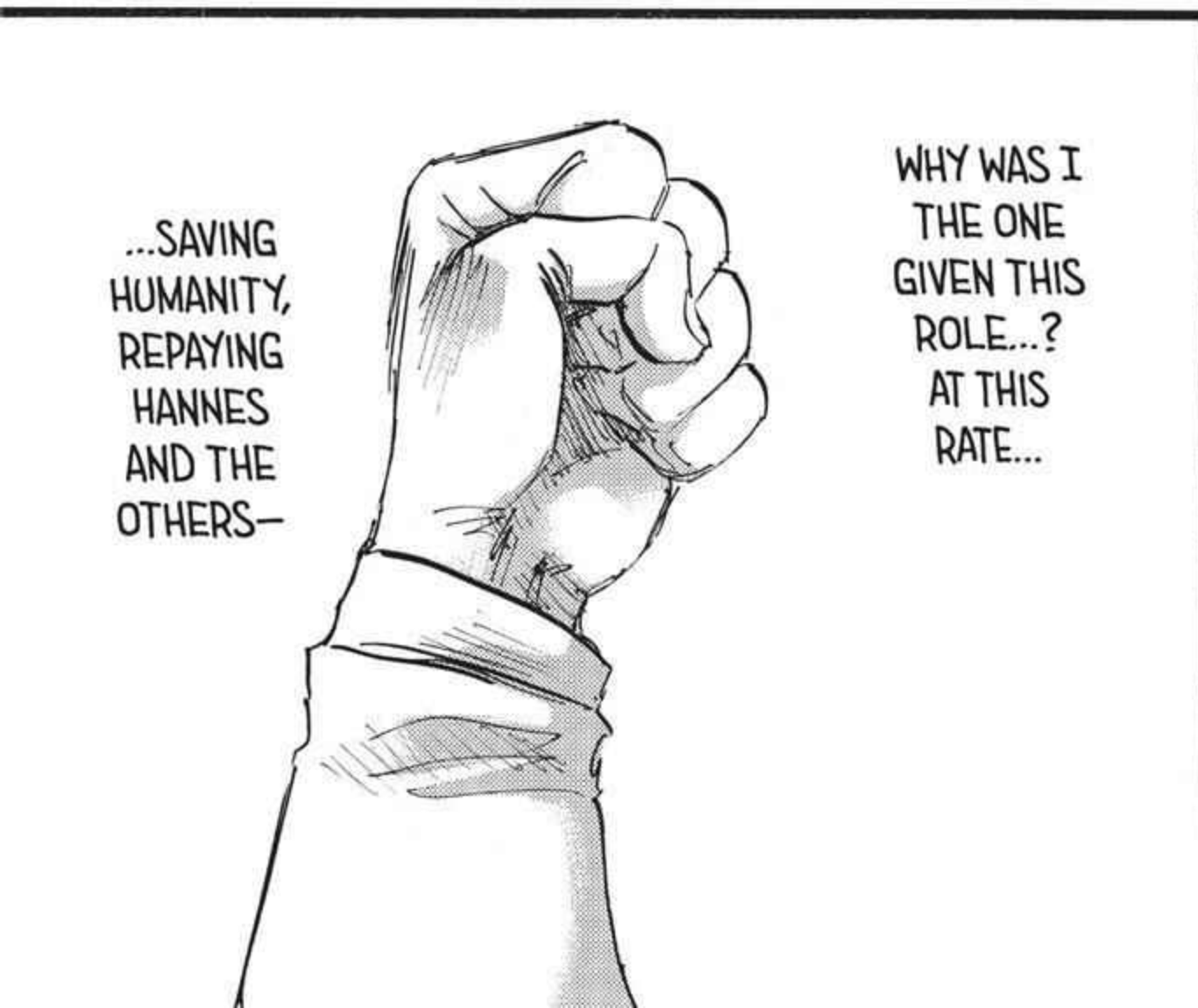


THANKS
FOR THAT
...

...YEAH.

...IS
WHAT
YOU
MEANT.
RIGHT,
LEVI?

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
LET'S
KEEP
FIGHTING.



...SAVING
HUMANITY,
REPAYING
HANNES
AND THE
OTHERS—

WHY WAS I
THE ONE
GIVEN THIS
ROLE...?
AT THIS
RATE...



Grip



I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO DO IT.

FOR NOW,
I'M
IGNORANT
AND
POWER-
LESS...



LEARNING
THAT
FACT
MIGHT BE
THE
BEGIN-
NING OF
SOME-
THING
NEW.

BUT...



WOULD I HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
CONTROL MY
TITAN FOR
LONGER IF
THAT HADN'T
HAPPENED?



BUT... WHY
DID I
THINK OF
MY FATHER
DURING
THE
EXPERI-
MENTS?

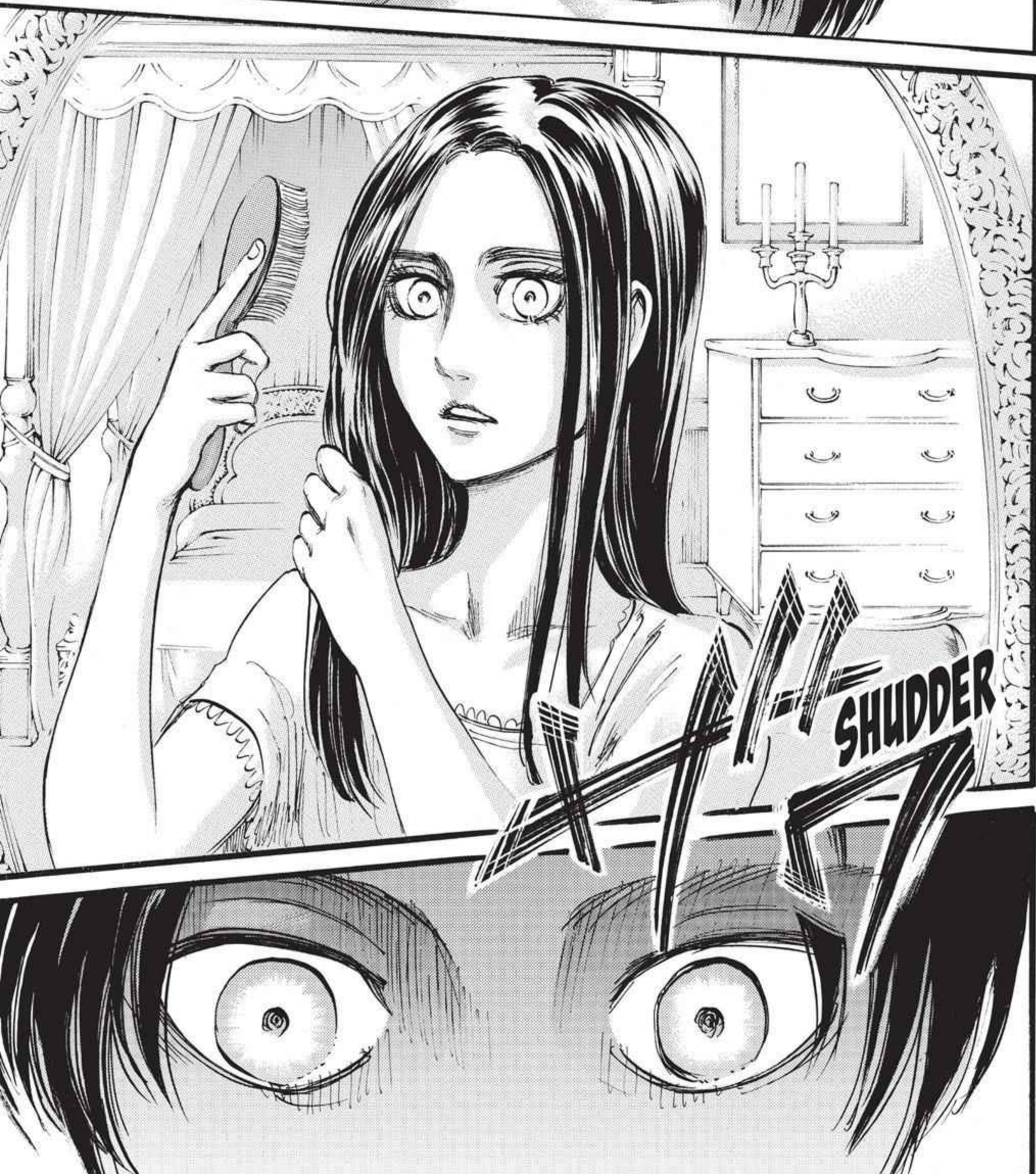


...FOR NOW...

WHERE ARE YOU
LIVING RIGHT
NOW...?

FATHER...

...OR ARE YOU
ALREADY...





IS THIS A
MEMORY?

...WHEN IS IT
FROM?

HISTORIA?

NO, THAT'S
NOT HER...



AH...

I CAN'T...
NOT AGAIN...

U
G
H...

ANY MORE AND...



AH...
YEAH
...

HM...?



DON'T PUSH
YOUR-
SELF.

YOU'RE
STILL
WEAK.




...OUR
NEXT
STEP
IS
CLEAR.

NOW
THAT WE
KNOW
THAT
YOU
CAN'T
HARDEN
YOUR
TITAN...

AS TO
WHERE
WE GO
FROM
HERE...

WHAT WAS I JUST
THINKING?




THEY
MIGHT KNOW
HOW THEY
WERE MADE...
OR IN OTHER
WORDS,
SOMETHING
ABOUT TITAN
HARDEN-
ING.

THEY
SEEM TO
KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT THE
ORIGIN OF THE
WALLS MADE
OUT OF
HARDENED
TITANS.



WE'LL
GO AFTER
THE WALLISTS
AND
EVERYONE
AROUND
THEM.



NOW THAT
ERWIN'S IN
THE ROYAL
CAPITAL...



ALSO...

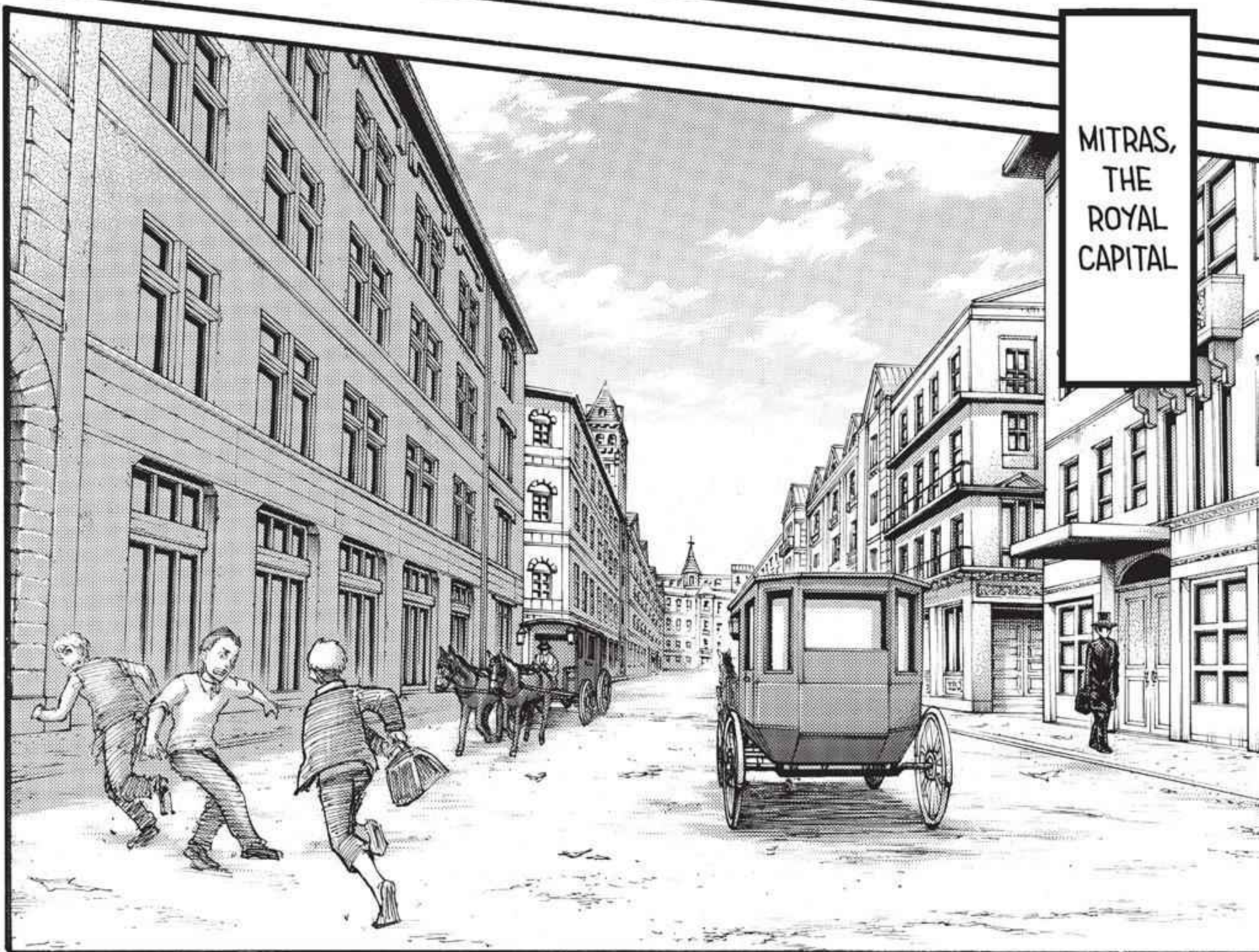


...AND NOT
THE RULER
OF
HUMANITY,
THE KING...

...ARE
THE ONES
ALLOWED
TO LEARN
THOSE
SECRETS.

HE
SHOULD
KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT WHY
THE REISS
FAMILY...

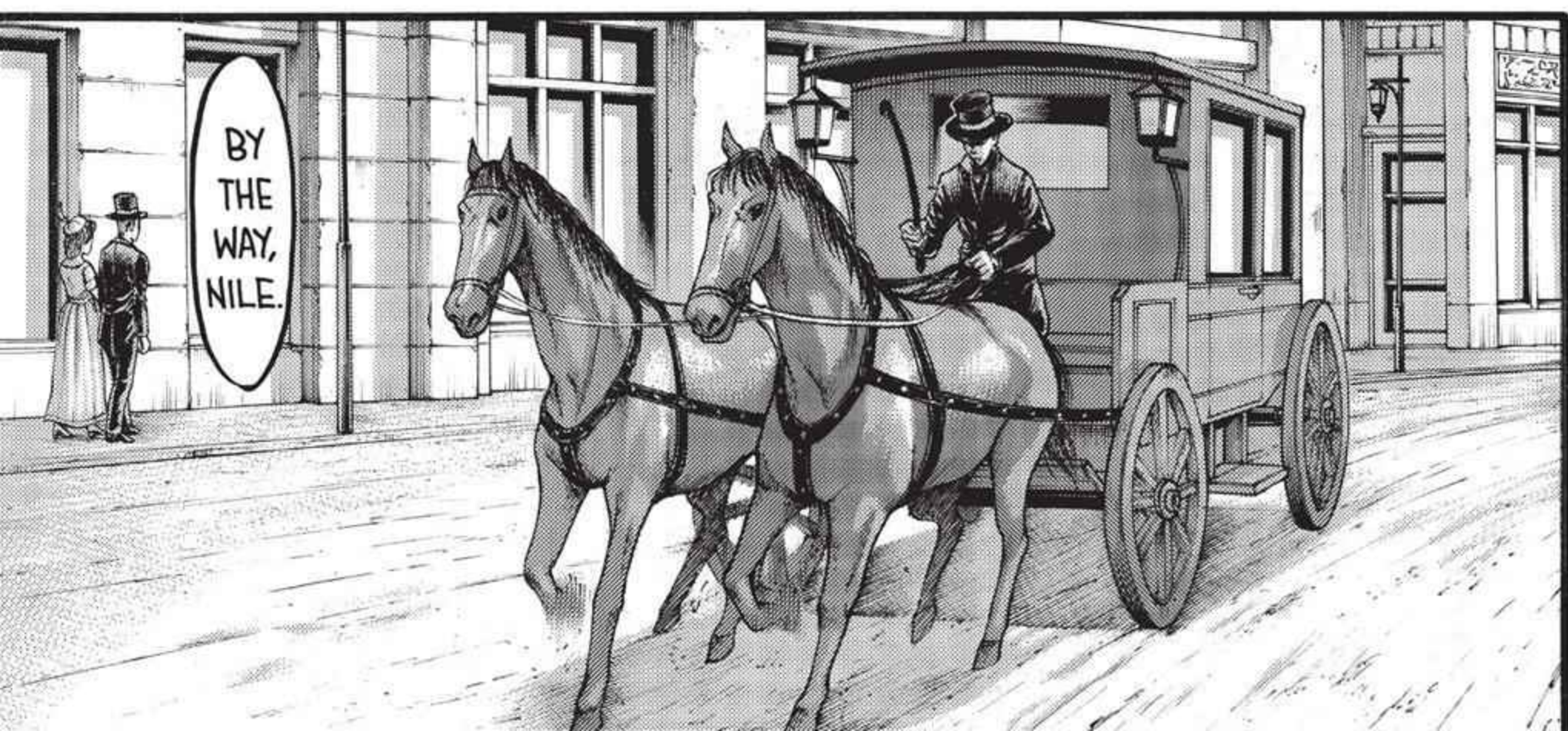
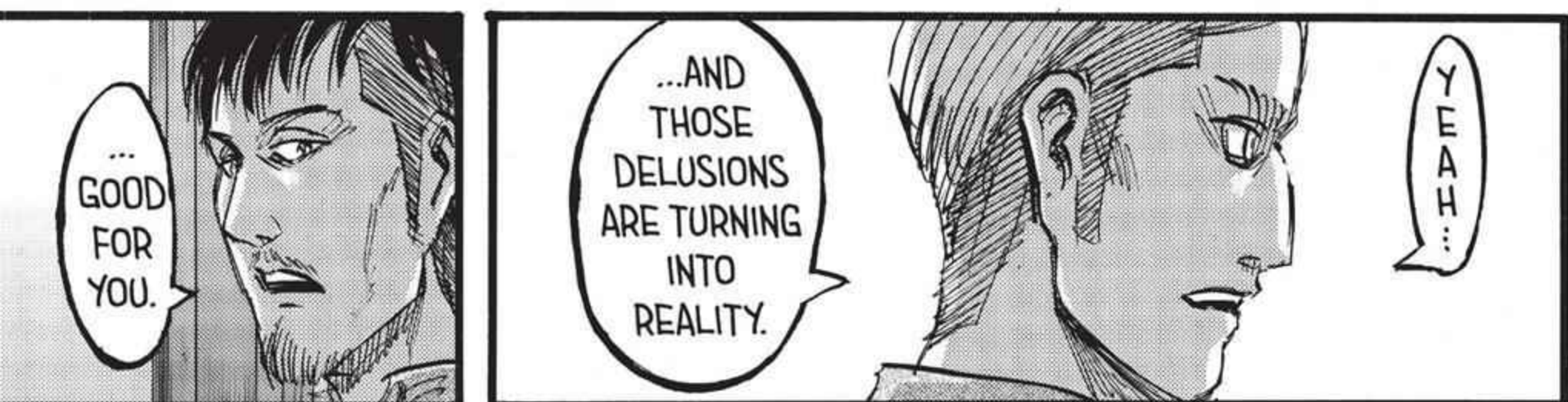
MITRAS,
THE
ROYAL
CAPITAL

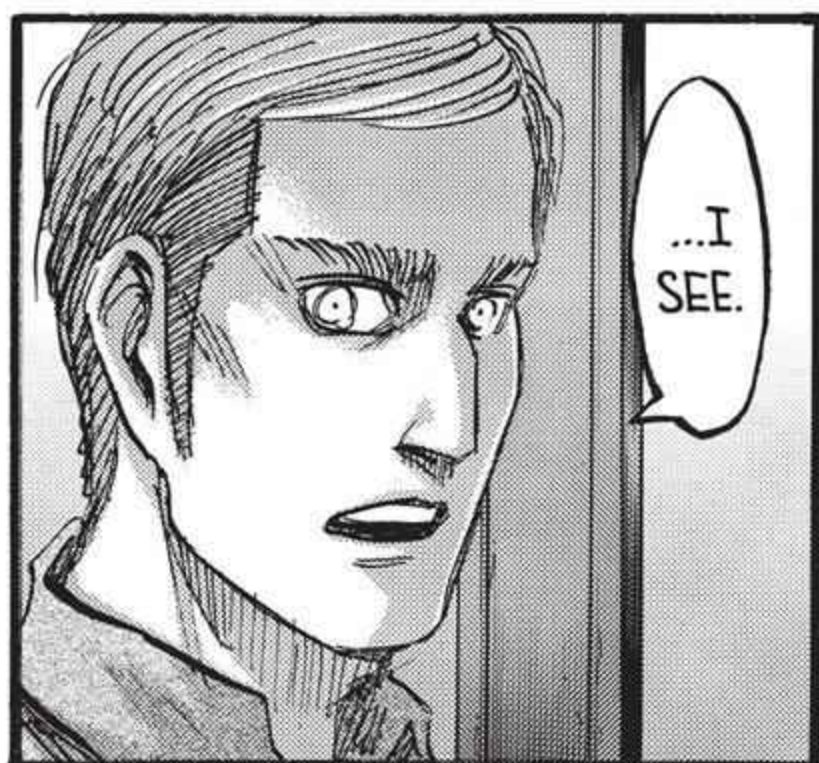
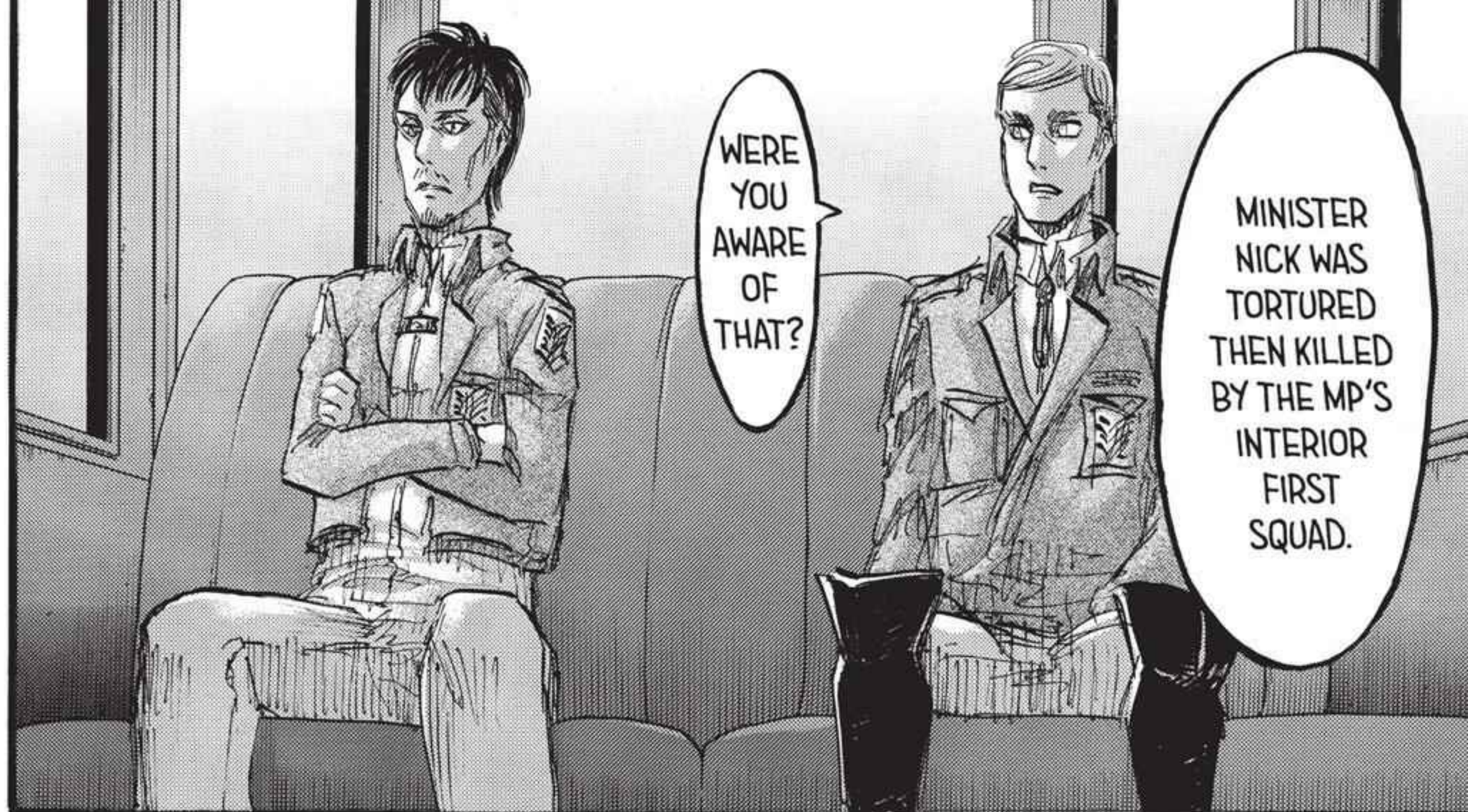


IT'S
THE SAME
EVERYWHERE.
EVEN IF YOU TRY
TO CRACK DOWN,
THE HOLDING
CELLS ARE ALREADY
OVERFLOWING.

IS THAT A
GANG OF CHILD
THIEVES? I
DIDN'T THINK
THE ROYAL
CAPITAL WOULD
BE IN SUCH
BAD
SHAPE...









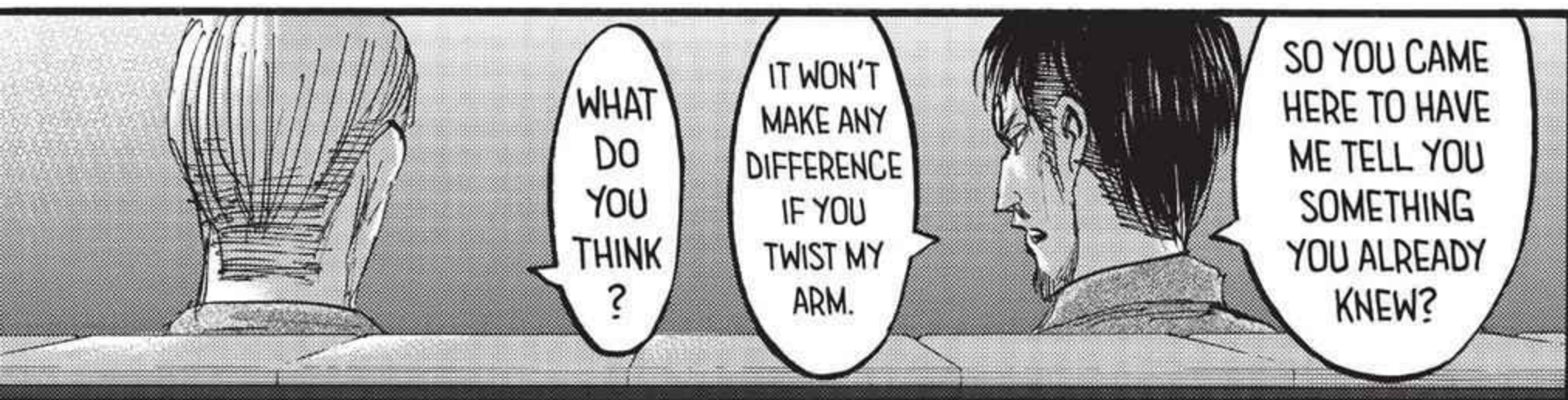
THEY HAVE A FREE PASS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.

THERE'S NO ONE WHO EXERCISES OFFICIAL CONTROL OVER THEM, EITHER.



OUR CHAIN OF COMMAND IS DIFFERENT, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THEM... EVEN WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.

AND WHILE WE'RE THE FACE OF THE MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, THE INTERIOR MPS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF YOU TWIST MY ARM.

SO YOU CAME HERE TO HAVE ME TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU ALREADY KNEW?



HUH ...?

...



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WILL HANDING EREN OVER TO THEM END THIS CRISIS INSIDE THE WALLS?



ALL
I DO IS
CARRY OUT
THE JOB
GIVEN TO
ME.

IT'S NOT
MY PLACE
TO THINK
ABOUT
THAT.



WHY
DON'T
YOU LEARN
TO FOCUS A
LITTLE?

...



I HEARD
HER THIRD
ONE'S ON
THE WAY.

HOW'S
MARIE
DOING
?



I
BETRAYED
ALL OF YOU,
AND SHAME-
LESSLY
SURVIVED
TO THIS
DAY.

...
YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

BUT THEN
YOU FELL IN
LOVE WITH A
GIRL AT OUR
FAVORITE BAR,
AND CHOSE TO
PROTECT THAT
ONE WOMAN
INSTEAD OF
JOINING THE
CORPS.

AS I
REMEMBER,
YOU WANTED
TO JOIN THE
SURVEY
CORPS
ALONGSIDE
ME.



...!
BUT... JUST
BECAUSE YOU
FOLLOW ORDERS
AND PROTECT
YOUR POSITION
DOESN'T
NECESSARILY
MEAN YOU'RE
PROTECTING
YOUR
FAMILY.



THE
SOLDIERS
WE TRAINED
WITH WHO
DIED BEFORE
US FELT THE
SAME WAY.
YOU WERE
ABLE TO
LIVE IN A
WAY WE
COULD
NOT.

...I
RESPECT
YOU.



I'M
PROUD
OF THE
FACT
THAT I
HAVE A
FAMILY.

...BUT
I DON'T
REGRET
IT.



HOPE...

**...OR
DE-
SPAIR
?**

**RIGHT
NOW, OUR
SMALL
WORLD IS
CHANGING.**



**WHO
WILL
CHOOSE
?**

**WHO
MAKES
THAT
CHOICE?**



**AND
WHO WILL
YOU
TRUST?**

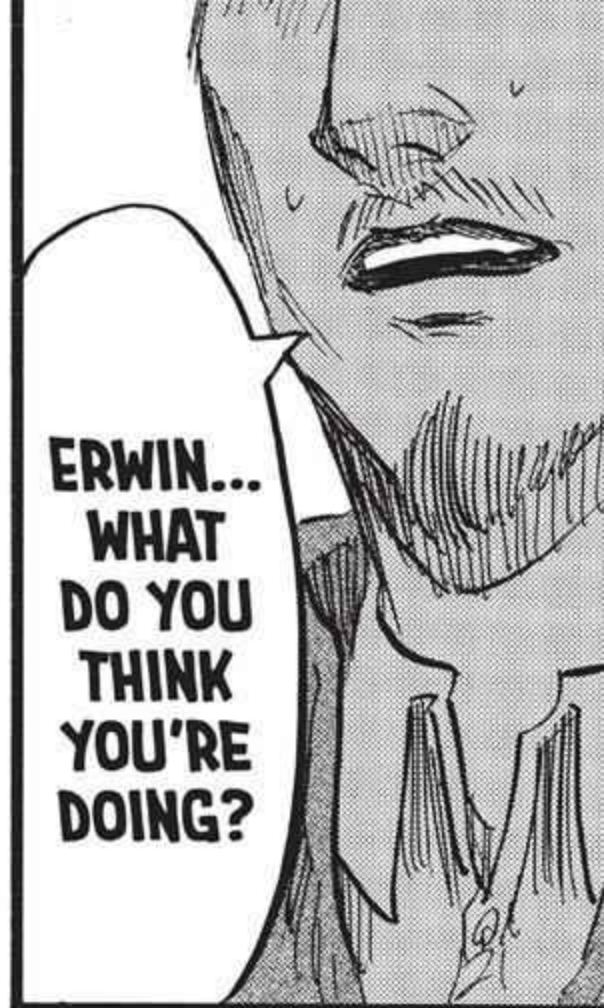


YOU JUST
KEEP DOING
YOUR JOB...
I WANTED
TO GIVE YOU
A WARNING,
THAT'S
ALL.



IT'S
THE
ONLY
THING
I'M
GOOD
AT.

YOU
KNOW
ME. YET
ANOTHER
GAMBLE.



ERWIN...
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?

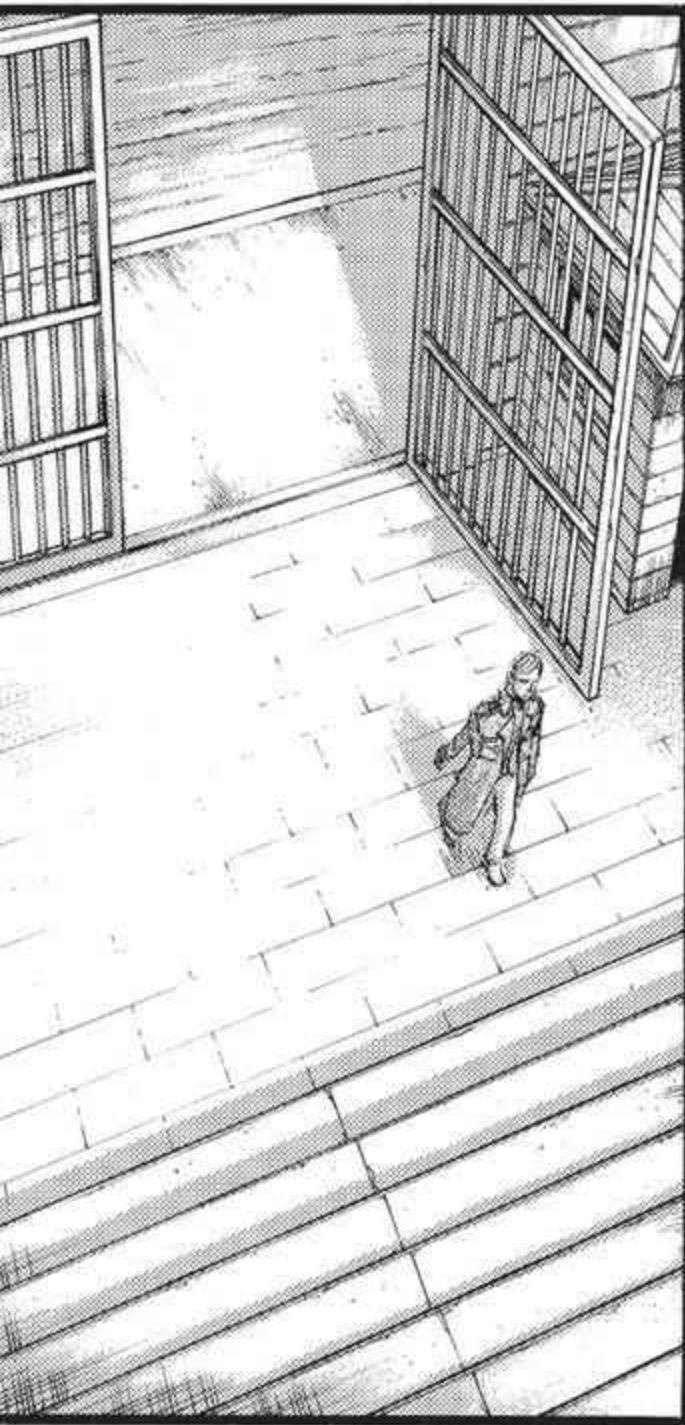


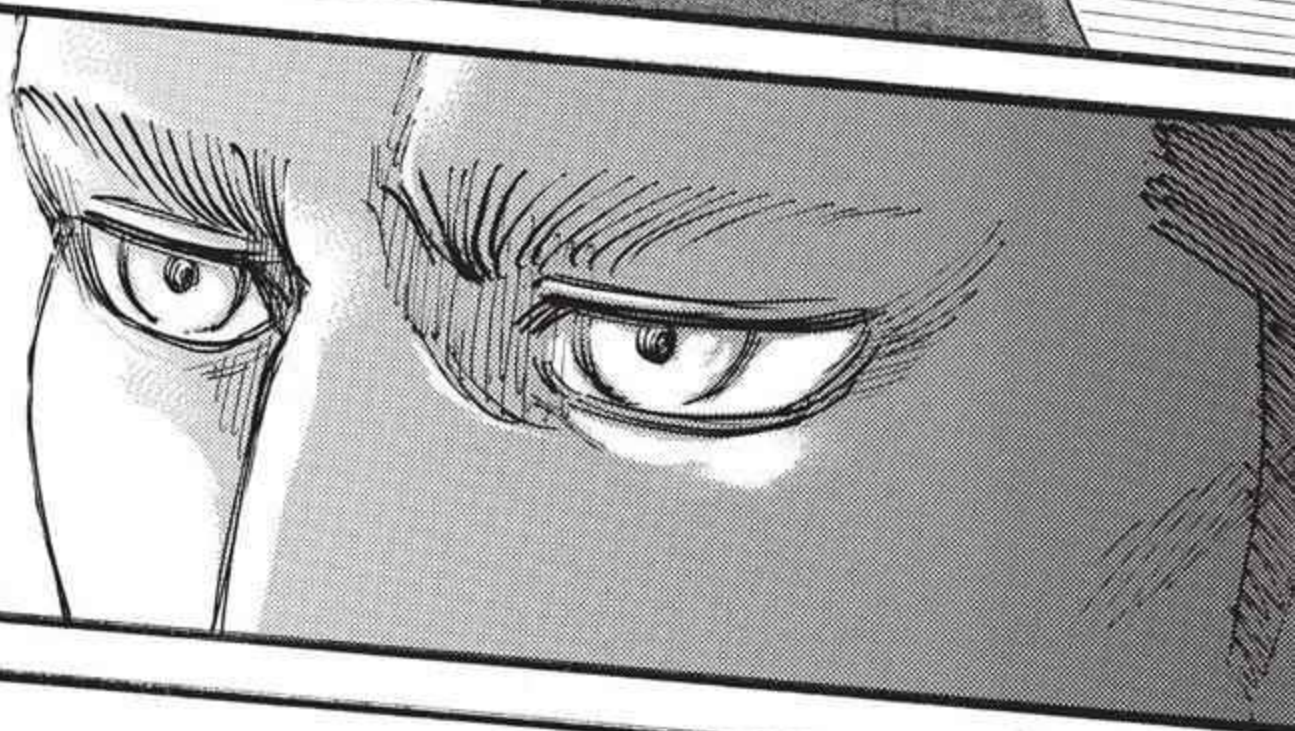
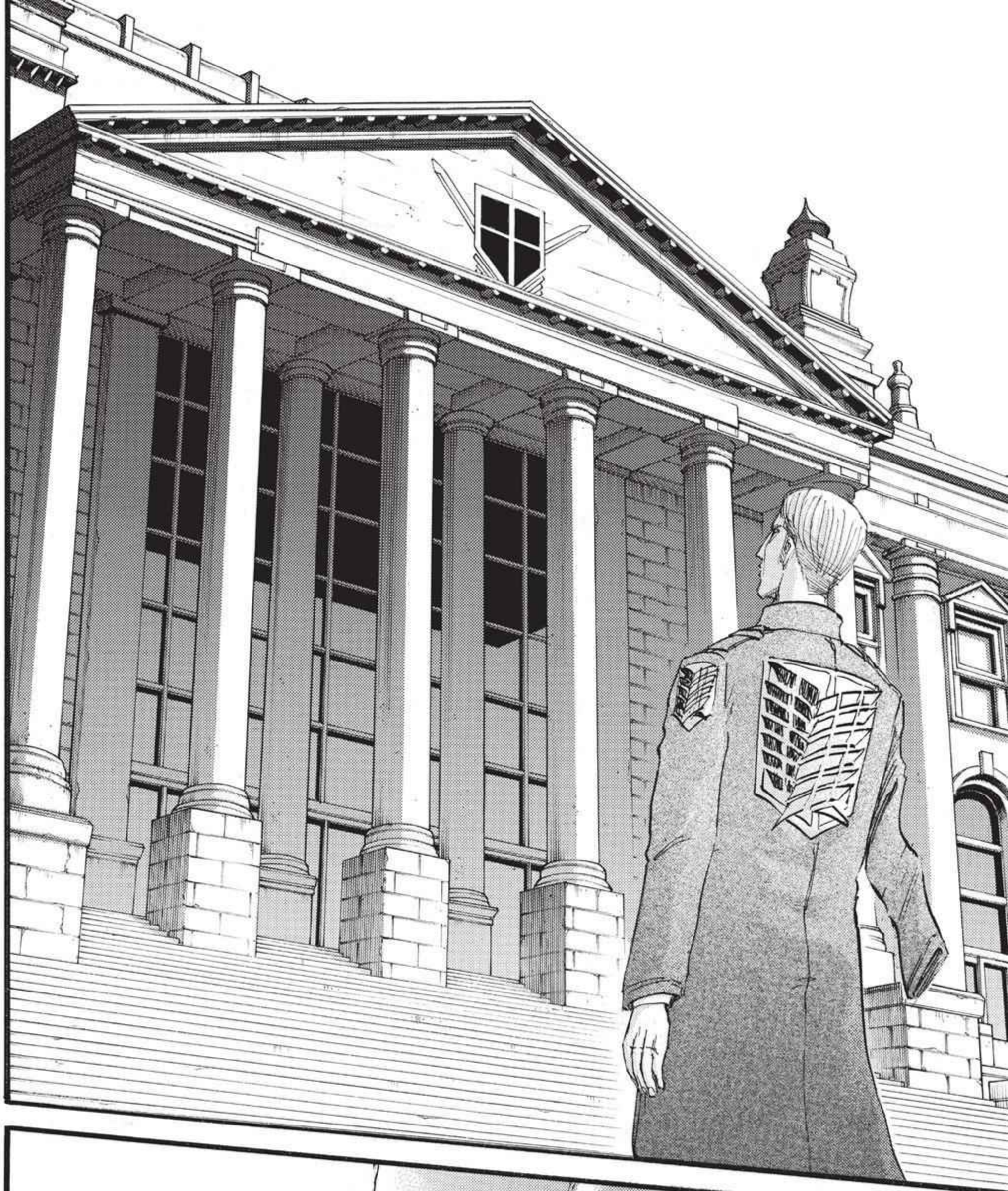
I WAS
QUITE
TAKEN
WITH
MARIE,
MY-
SELF.

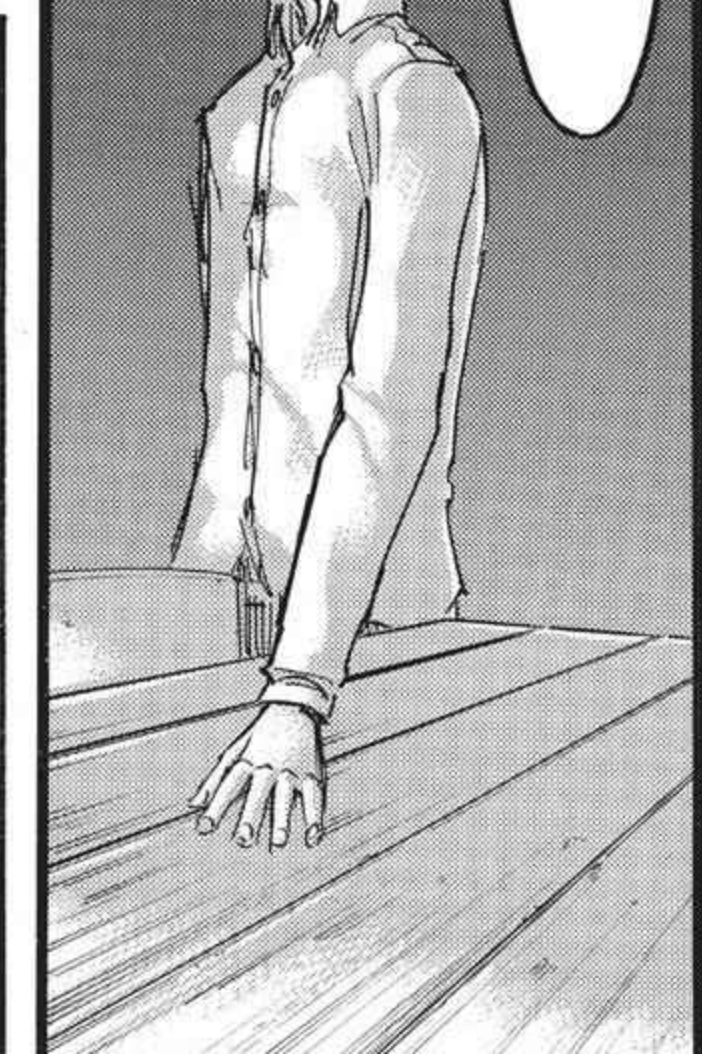


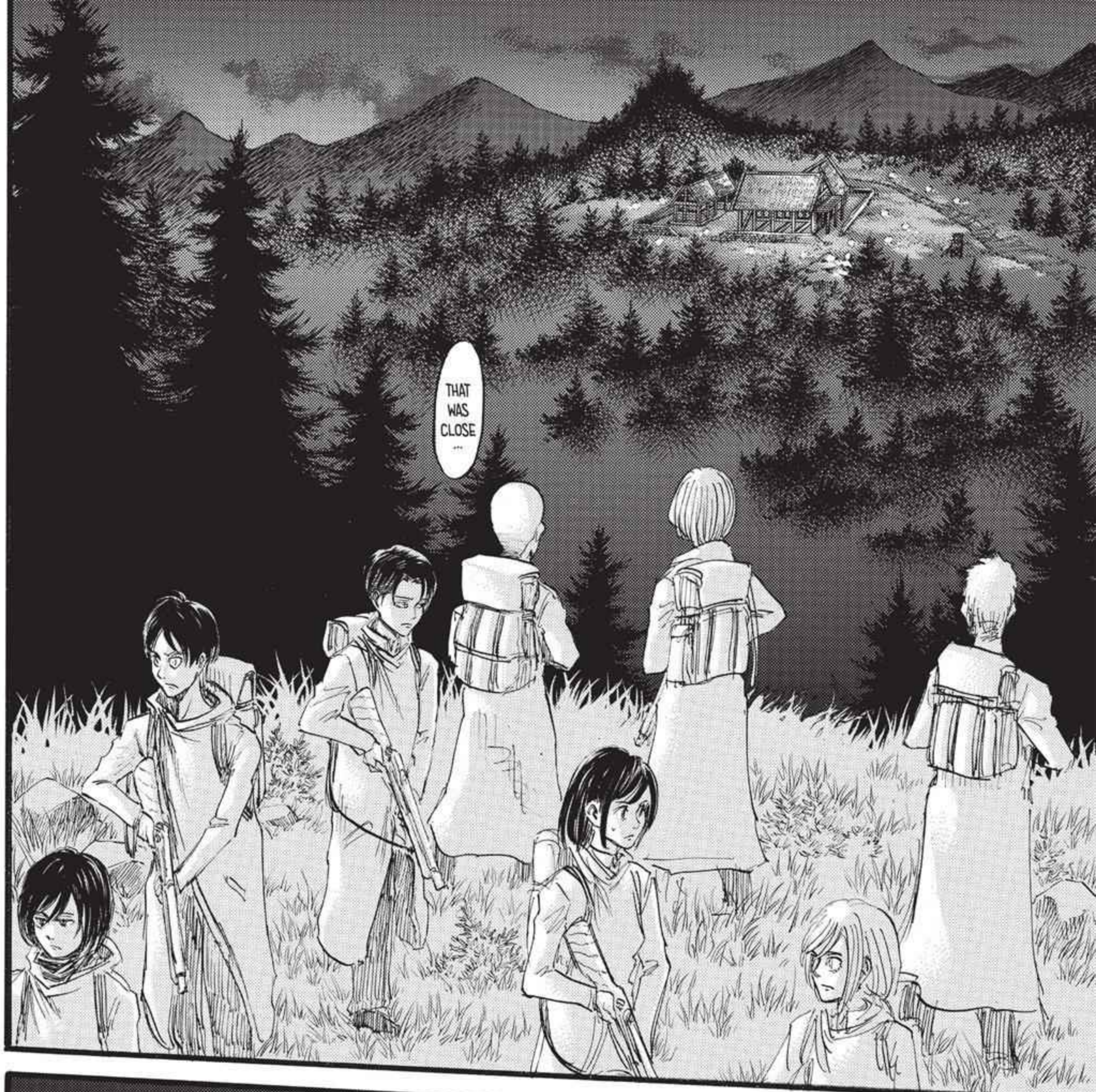
OH,
AND
ONE
LAST
THING
...

I'LL
LEAVE
YOU
HERE...



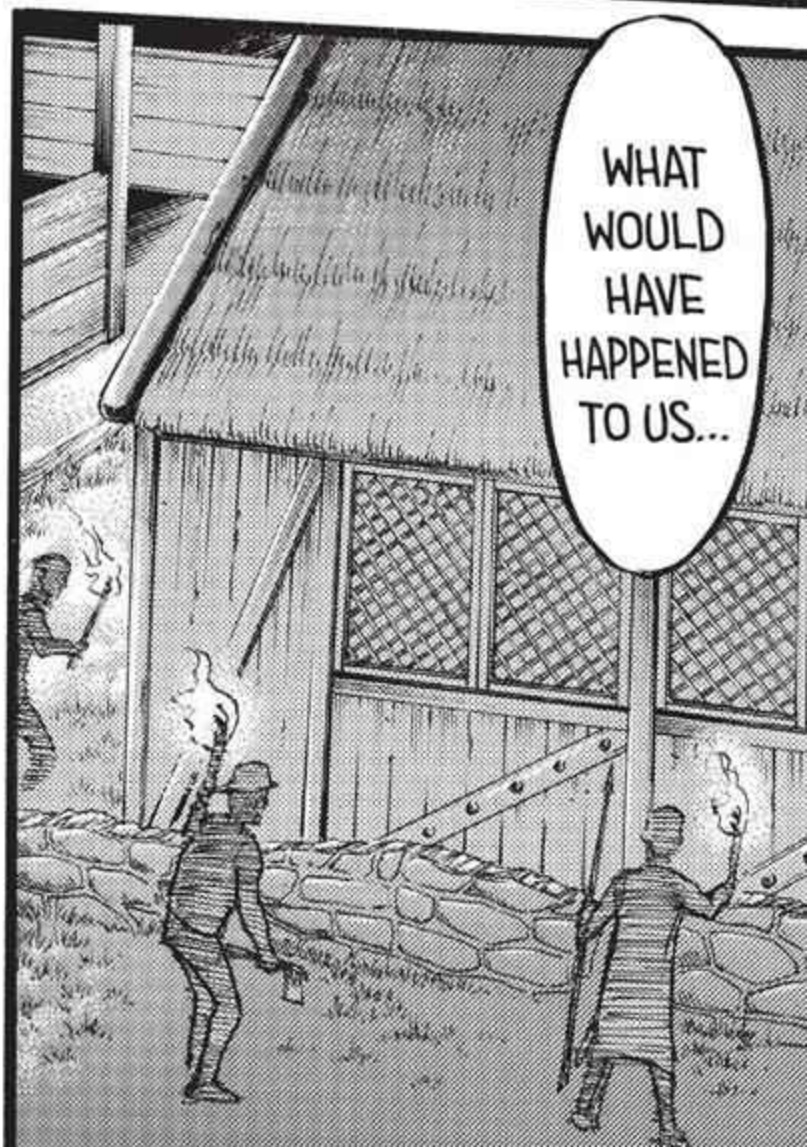






CAPTAIN...
ARE
THOSE
INTERIOR
MPS?

IF WE
HAD
STAYED
ONE
MORE
NIGHT
IN
THERE
...?



WHAT
WOULD
HAVE
HAPPENED
TO US...







THE
GARRISON
RAN OFF
SOMEWHERE,
AND CROWDS
OF THIEVES
CAME IN TO
TAKE THEIR
PLACE.

OUR
INCOME'S
GONE, AND
WE CAN'T
EAT.

IT'S NOT
JUST US.
PEOPLE DON'T
COME TO TOWNS
BY THE WALL
LIKE THIS ONE
ANYMORE
BECAUSE OF ALL
THE UNCER-
TAINTY.



I
THINK
I
KNOW
WHY.

WHY'D
THINGS
TURN OUT
LIKE THIS?
WHY DO
THE TITANS
KEEP
ATTACK-
ING?

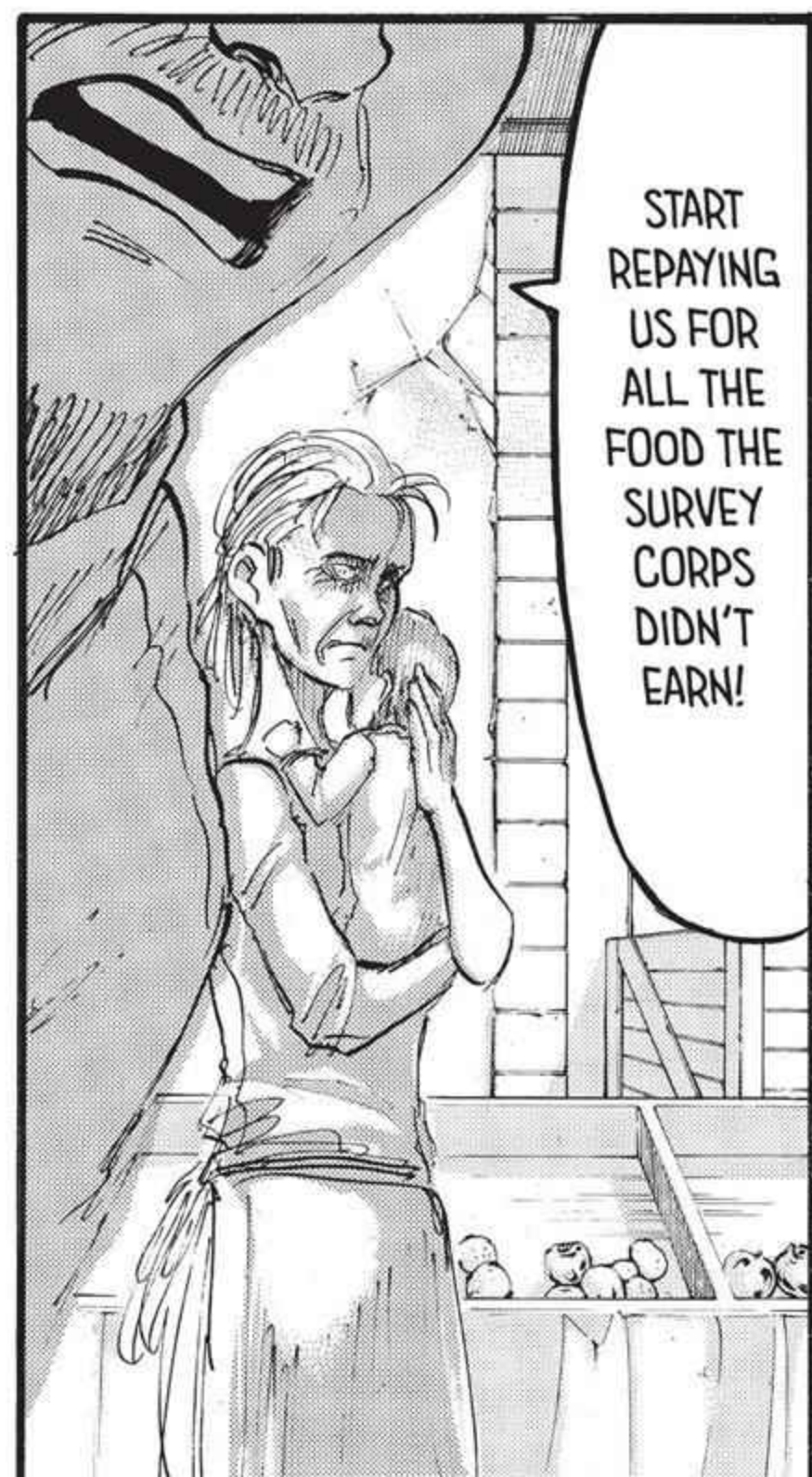


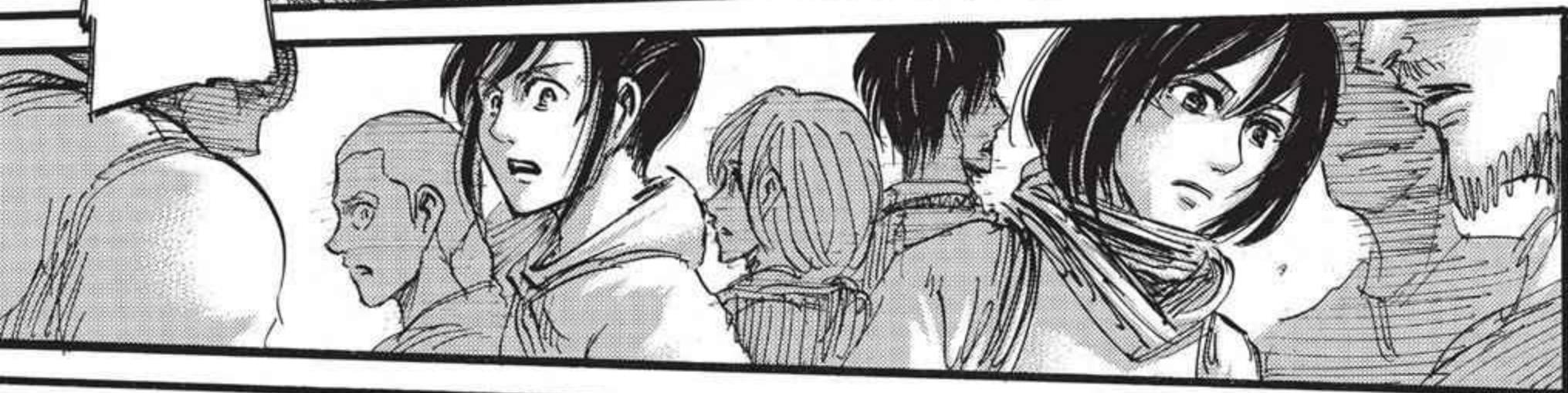
WHAT
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO?

...BUT
TAXES
ARE AS
HIGH AS
EVER.



IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU IN THE
SURVEY
CORPS
AREN'T
WORKING
HARD
ENOUGH.

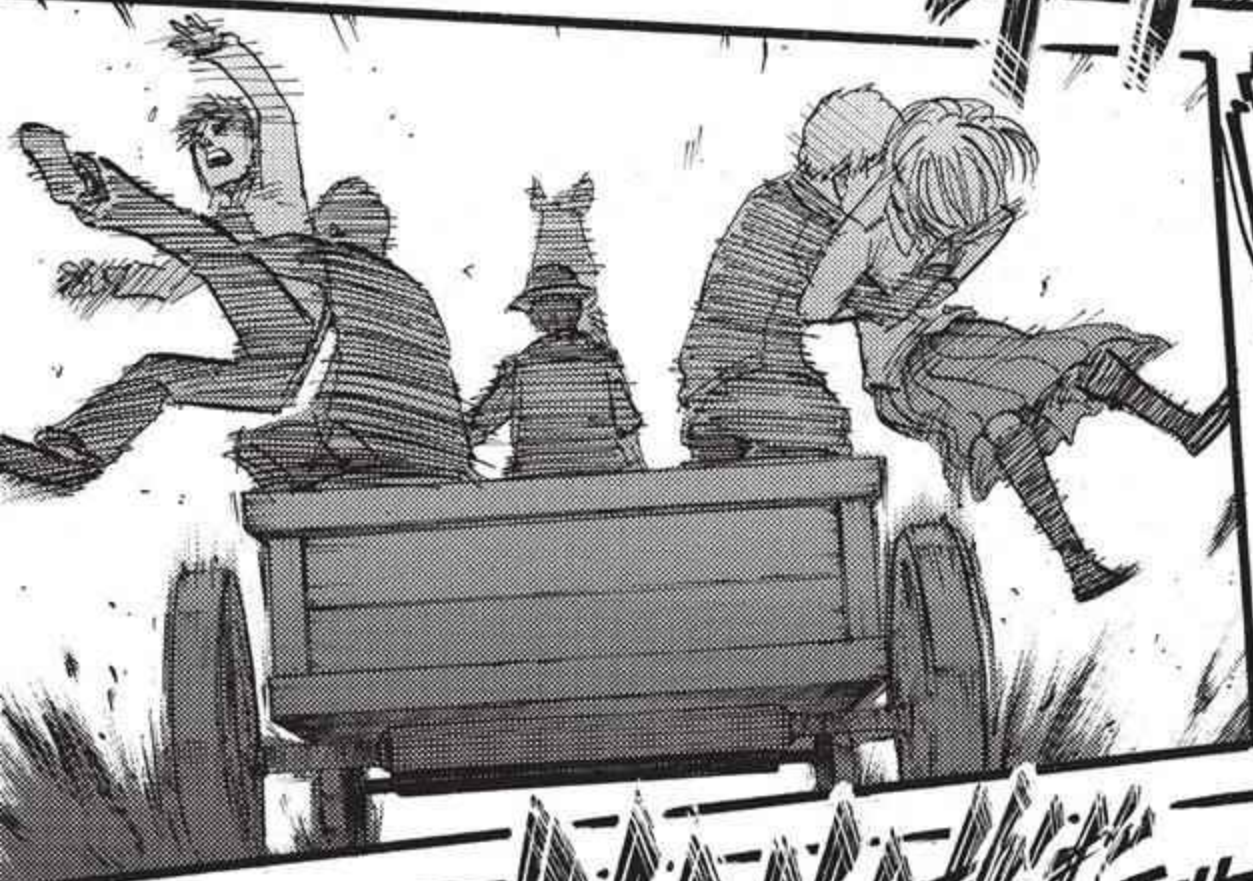




THERE'S A
CARRIAGE
COMING!!

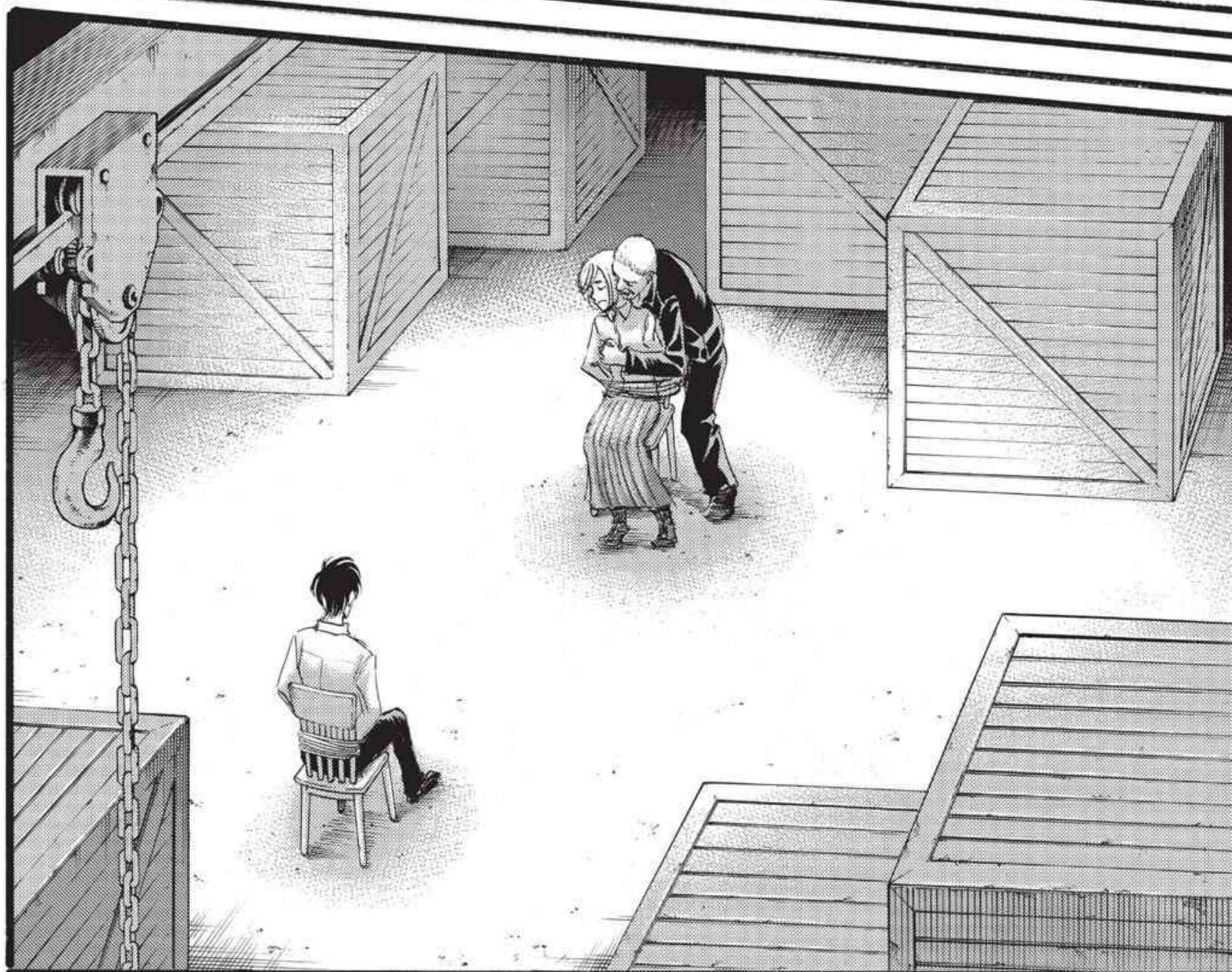
THUD UD
UD UD

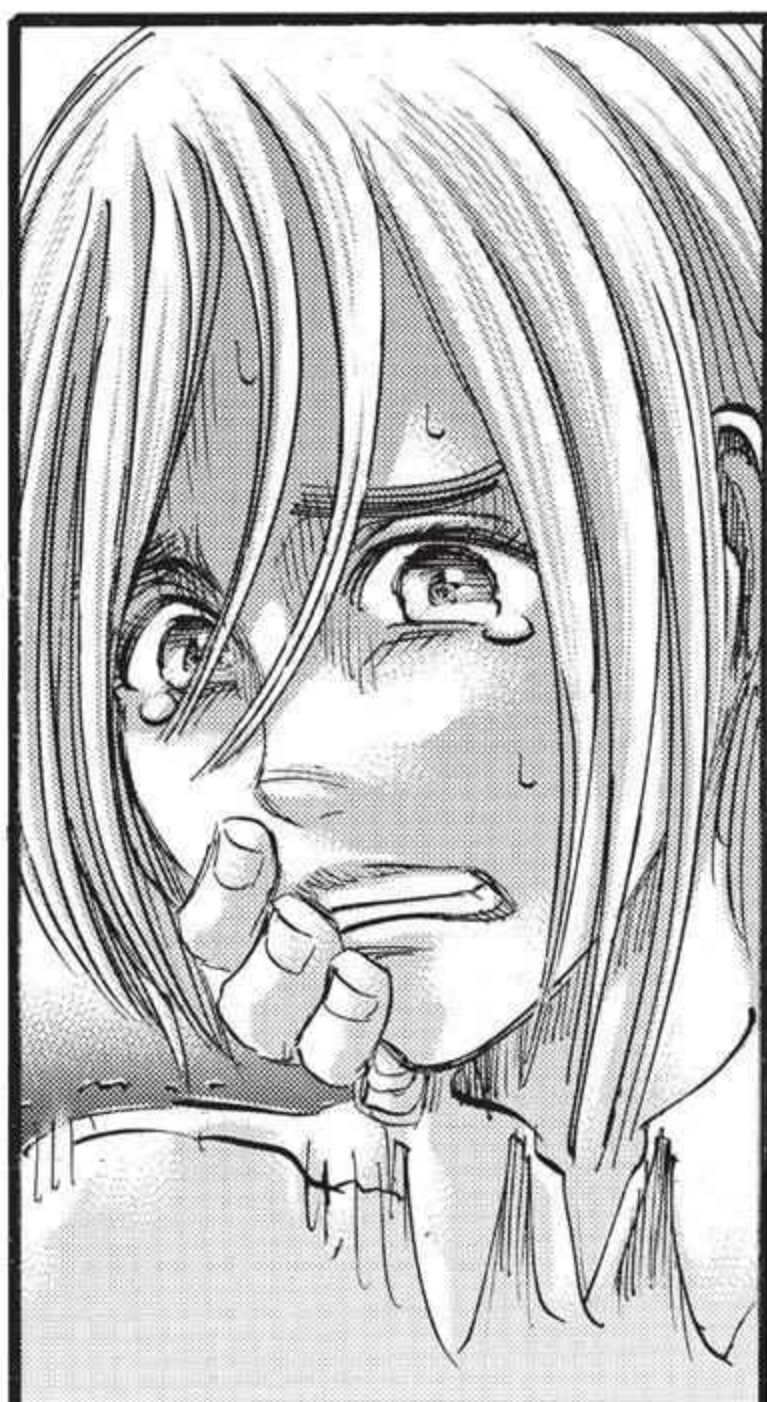
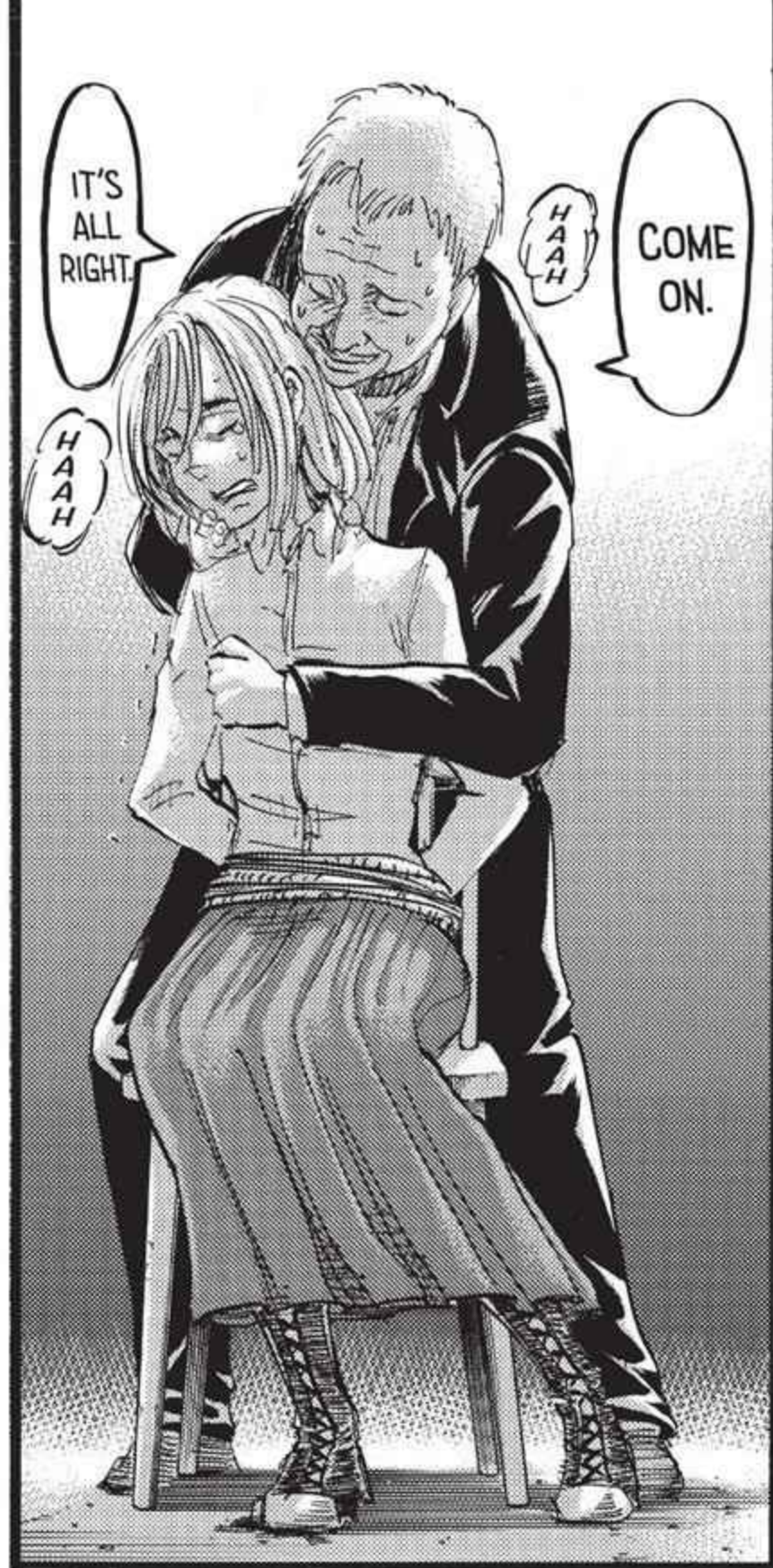














WHAT'S IT
LOOK LIKE
INSIDE?

SWOOSH



HOW'S
YOUR
LEG?



I
SEE.

THEY'RE
GOING TO
SEE
THROUGH
ARMIN'S
DISGUISE IF
WE DON'T
HURRY...

I
FEEL
BAD
FOR
HIM,
TOO.



FWOOO

IT'S
MOVING
PRETTY
WELL...

IT'S
NOT
BAD.

ATTACK on TITAN